

## GRASSHOPPERS ON A LEASH

That bastard chile  
saw me sitting on the porch swing  
reading my book.  
She say  
won't yew cum on outside.  
Grandma Meme was back in the kitchen  
cleaning collards.  
so I snuck out the door.

Look at this string my momma give me  
She held the lime green thread in the palm of her hand  
like a diamond

then ran off screaming  
let's ketch some grasshoppers  
I followed behind real fast  
so Meme wouldn't hear the noise and come looking.

I didn't think that bastard chile was so bad –  
even if she did like to tie grasshopper's legs to string.  
it was kinda fun  
walking grasshoppers on a leash.

We didn't have time to name them though –  
Meme came down the road  
switch already in hand.

Later  
I could hear that bastard chile  
outside my window  
singing  
that Funky Broadway song  
by Wilson Pickett.

Grandma wouldn't like that either.